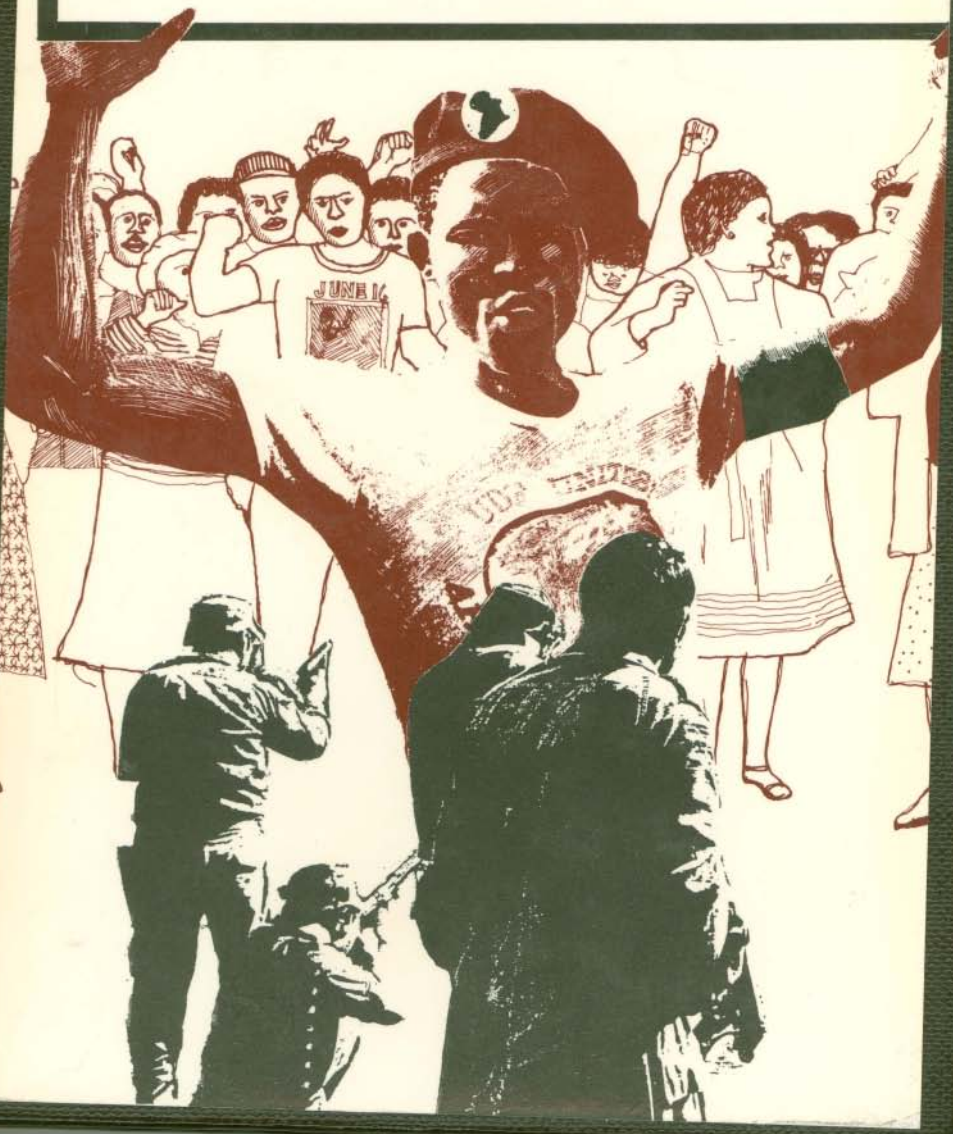
FIGHTING APARTHEID

A CARTOON HISTORY



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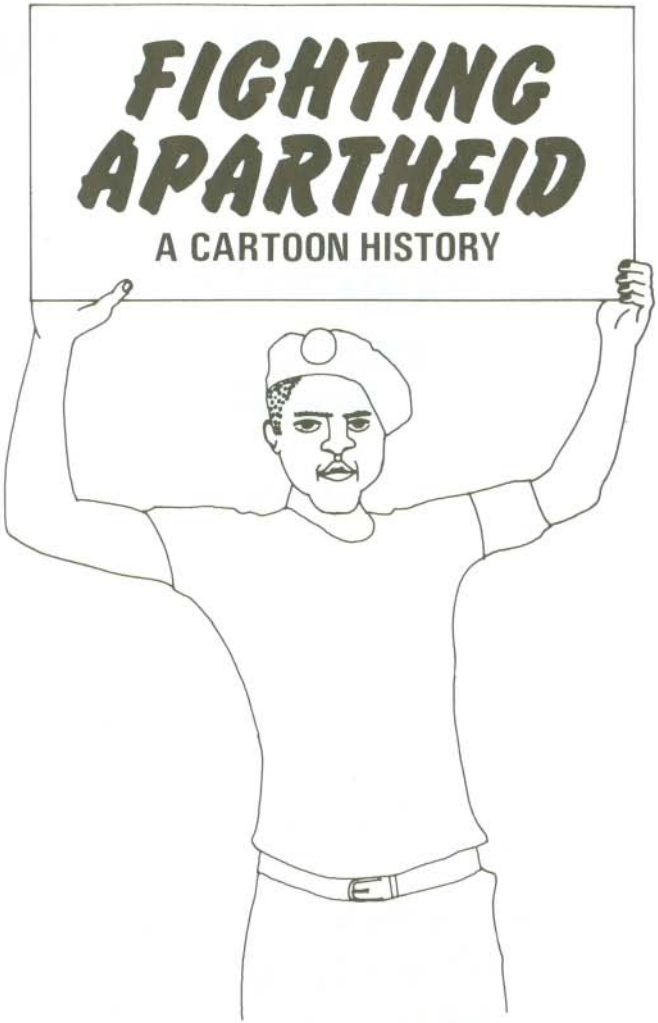

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Preface

This strip cartoon has been sponsored by Unesco as part of the struggle against apartheid. It is meant for readers who wish to know quickly what apartheid is about and of the resistance to apartheid within South Africa. South Africa has known settler-conquest, colonial rule and slavery, and at present, is the clearest example of a state which deliberately and openly practices racial discrimination. Racism in the form of apartheid or separate development regulates all political, social and economic relationships.

Apartheid has been condemned by the world community. It nevertheless continues. This strip cartoon is intended to answer some of the "whys" of a popular audience. It should be underlined that, while condemning apartheid as contrary to all the principles on which Unesco is founded and as a major source of conflict and destabilization in the whole of Southern Africa, the Unesco Secretariat does not necessarily share all the views of the authors.

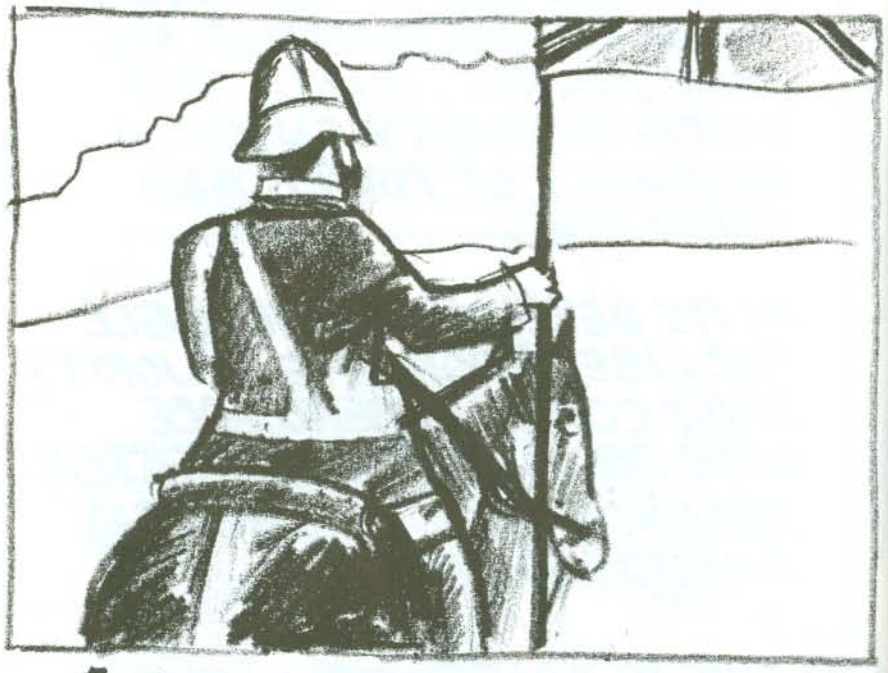
SOUTH AFRICA...

WHERE ONE OF THE MOST REPRESSIVE POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF MODERN TIMES EXISTS. A SYSTEM WHICH DEPRIVES THE BLACK MAJORITY OF ALL BASIC RIGHTS, WHILE THE WHITE MINORITY ENJOYS A MONOPOLY OF POWER AND PRIVILEGE.

IN ITS DEVELOPING STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION THE MAJORITY DAILY COMES FACE TO FACE WITH GREATER AND GREATER VIOLENCE FROM THE HEAVILY ARMED MINORITY.

THIS IS APARTHEID IN THE 1980'S - A SYSTEM CONDEMNED BY THE UNITED NATIONS AS "A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY..."

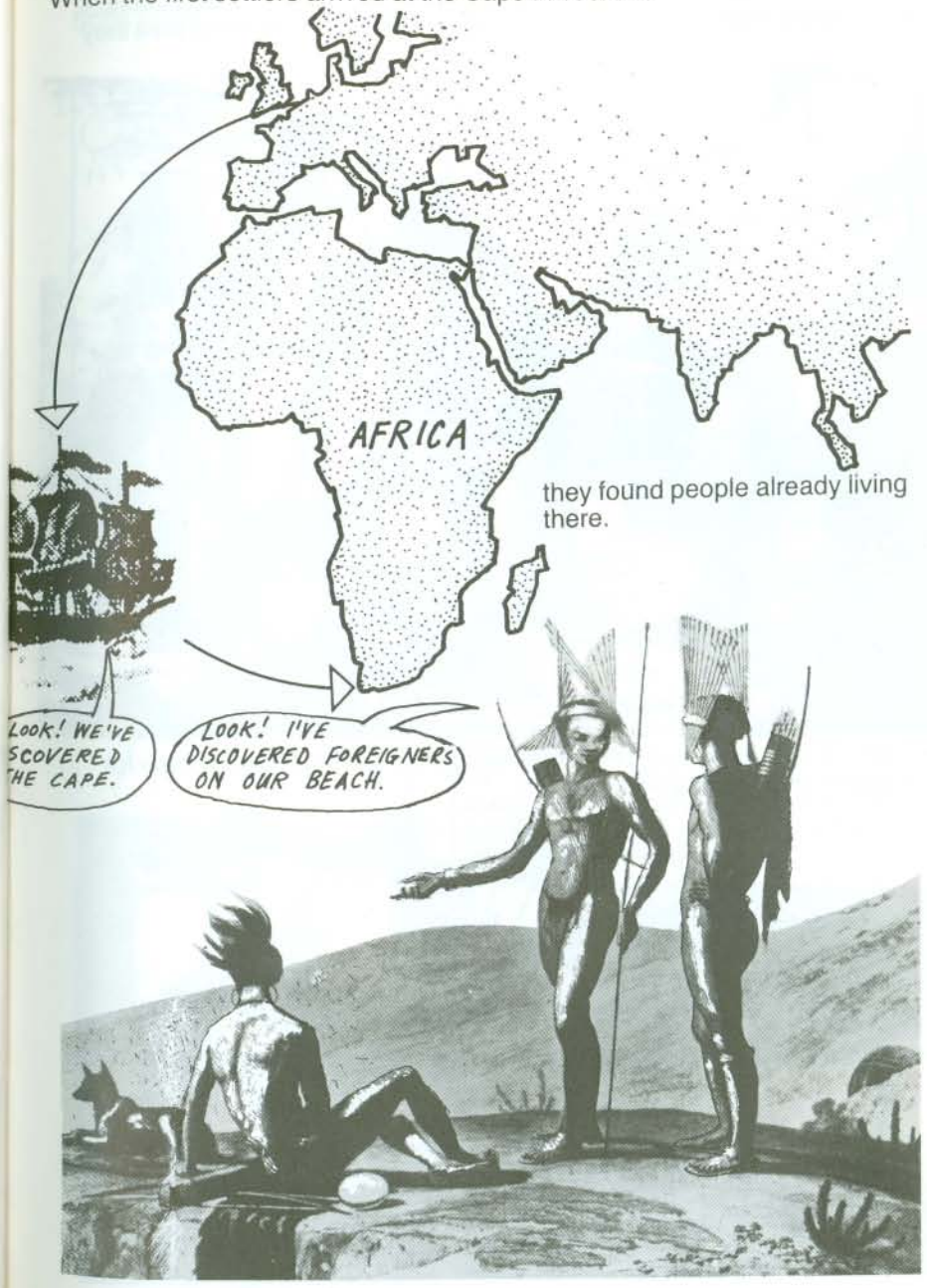
FOUNDATIONS OF APARTHEID



1. IN THE FIRST PLACE

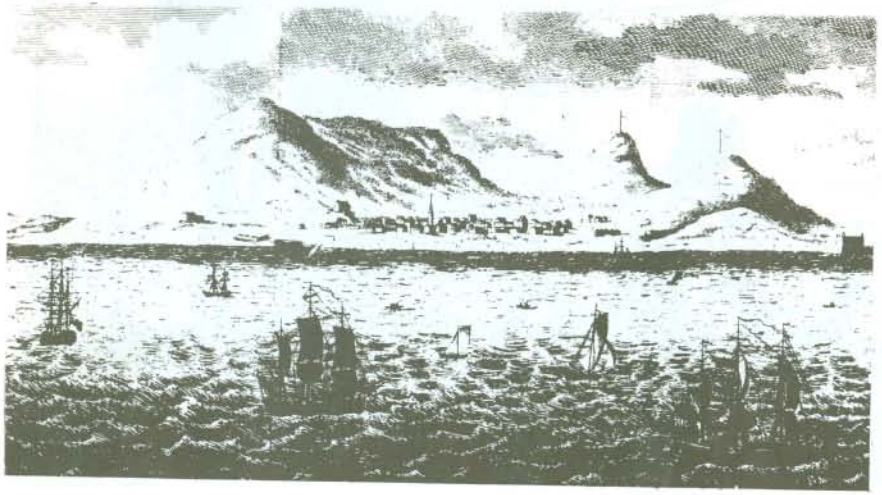
Colonial Conquest

When the first settlers arrived at the Cape in 1652. . .



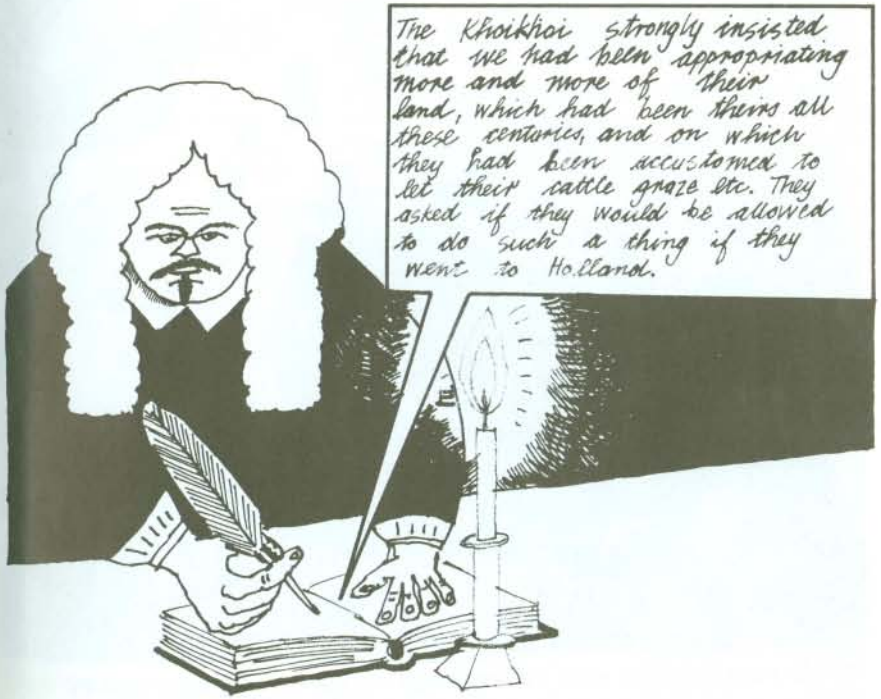
In the rest of South Africa, like the Cape, people engaged in herding animals, raising crops, trading or mining, depending on the character of the area they lived in.

At first the new comers did no more than set up a refreshment station for European ships, along with a fort.

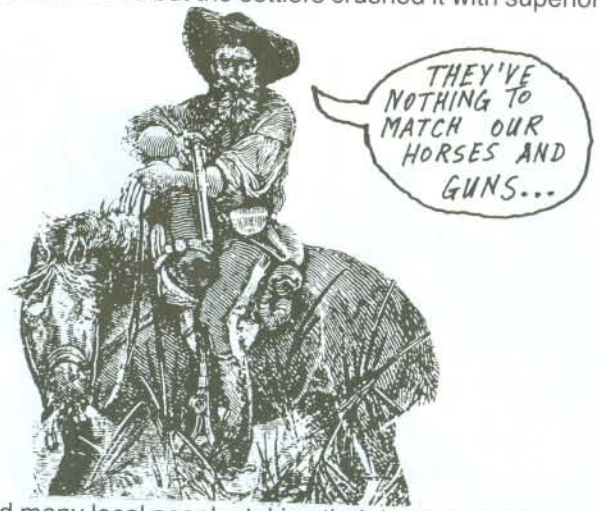


Soon the settlers began to take over the lands of those who lived there.

From the diary of Jan van Riebeeck, leader of the Dutch settlers. . .



There was resistance but the settlers crushed it with superior weapons.

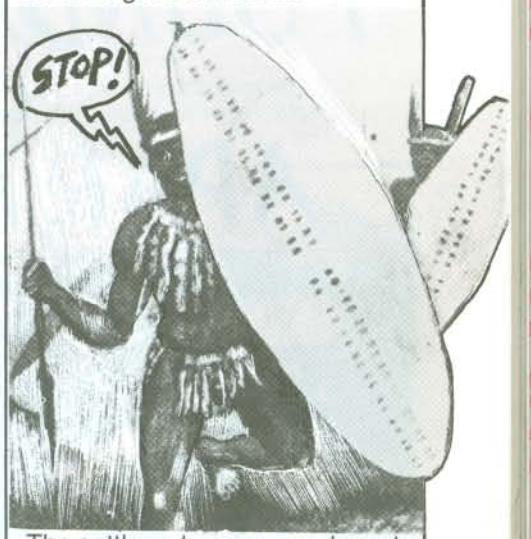


They killed many local people, taking their land and cattle.

Others were forced to work for the settlers to survive. Slavery, until its abolition in the 1930's was the basis of agricultural production in the Cape.

Settler Society grew and spread into the interior, to take more land.

But they soon met stronger and better organised forces.



The settler advance was slowed down by long wars of resistance.

In 1806 the British arrived at the Cape. They had enormous military strength and they turned it against the Africans.

Only then did the settler advance begin to succeed. But it took a hundred years of bloody battles to complete the military conquest.

FOUNDATIONS OF APARTHEID

2. WEALTH

Minerals and Migrants

In 1860 South Africa still had a mainly agricultural economy. The settlers had taken much of the fertile land for their farms, relying on the labour of Africans who were forced to live as tenants on land that had been their own.

THEN...

South African society was transformed by very important discoveries.

SUDDENLY...

PEOPLE IN EUROPE KNEW ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA AND THEY WANTED A STAKE.

BUT...

Two things were needed to make mining profitable.

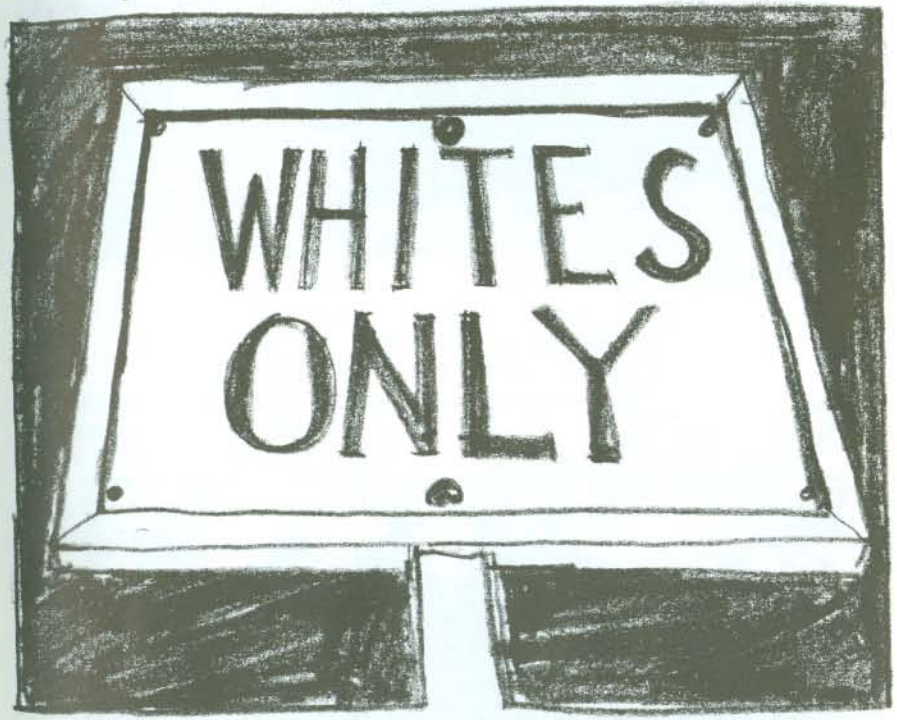
Money for expensive mining equipment soon flowed in from foreign investors eager for big profits. (The West still maintains strong economic links.)

Settlers formed the government. They also owned the mines. Cecil Rhodes was one of the biggest owners of diamond and gold mines. He was also the Prime Minister of the Cape. . .

Although the African people had lost control of most of the country, many still lived by agriculture. They had no need to work in the settlers' mines. So the government passed laws to compel them to supply their labour.

More and more men were forced off the land. This was the beginning of the migrant labour system. With much of the labour force absent, crops got smaller and families poorer.

FOUNDATIONS OF APARTHEID



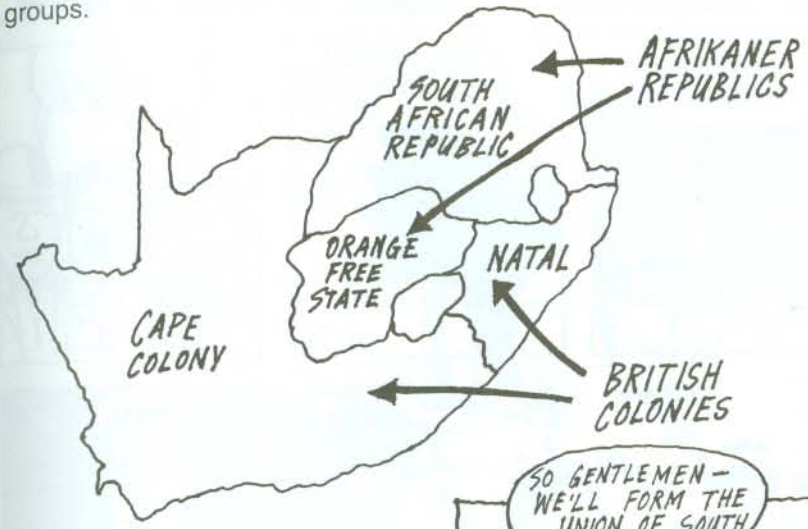
3. SEGREGATION

In 1906 the first period of struggle against white domination came to an end. The settler government tried to impose another tax to force people to work for whites. There was an uprising.

It was ruthlessly put down.

Four thousand Africans were killed and armed resistance was ended for the moment.

At the end of the 19th century South Africa was dominated by separate white groups.



The two groups fought wars, mainly over control of territory in which gold mines were located. The British were victorious, and in 1910 all the whites got together in spite of their differences ...

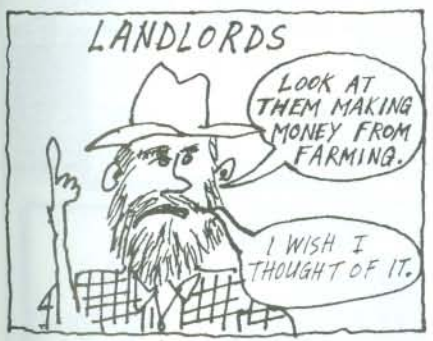
Through the formation of the Union of South Africa, the settlers combined to dominate and exploit the Black majority.

1912: AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS BORN.

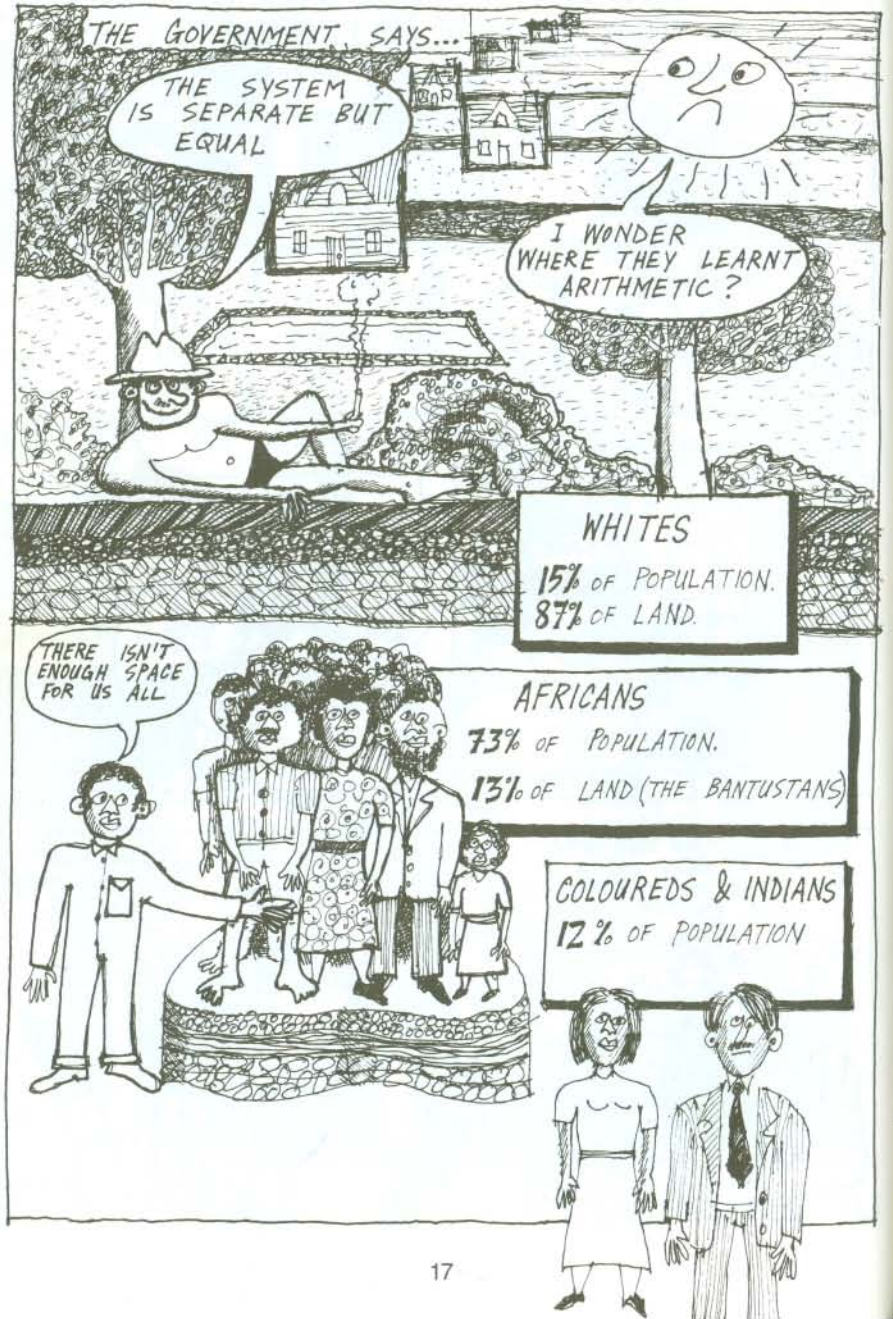
But the government continued to remove more and more rights from the majority.

THE STRUGGLE FOR LAND.

THE SETTLERS WERE UNHAPPY...



In 1913 the government made the first of several laws to divide the land between Whites and Blacks. Based on the results of earlier military conquest these laws shape the way the land is divided today.



The government's land policy broke the economic independence of rural Africans. It ensured there wasn't enough land.

The struggle for land has never been concluded. The government has uprooted communities and forcibly moved them to the Bantustans.

South Africa has one of the highest rates of profit in the world. The migrant labour system is one important reason. At first it was applied to the mines. But as industrialisation proceeded it became applied in all spheres where Africans were employed. Today over a quarter of all employed Africans are migrant workers.

THE LIFE OF A MIGRANT WORKER

Since 1948 over 12 million people have been arrested under laws controlling the movement of Africans. The government has continuously adapted to changing economic conditions, and has even claimed to have abolished the pass laws.

After 1920 more and more Africans went to the cities. In the rural areas this meant fewer hands. . .

In 1946 there was a big strike over wages. 100,000 miners stopped working for a week.

Miners Plan Strike

Africans Demand 10s. a Day

JOHANNESBURG. — Demanding ten shillings daily minimum wage, a general strike of all African mineworkers on the Witwatersrand begins on Monday next, August 12. This historic decision was taken last Sunday amidst scenes of the greatest enthusiasm by over 1,000 delegates at a special conference of the African Mine Workers Union at Market Square, Newtown.

GUARDIAN

Registered at the G.P.O. as a newspaper.

TENTH YEAR. No. 25. THURSDAY, August 15, 1946. PRICE 1d.

GREATEST STRIKE IN S.A. HISTORY

MORE THAN 50,000 OUT

JOHANNESBURG.—On Tuesday morning the African Mineworkers' Union office was raided by police on suspicion that all documents, records of membership cards were burned. The police produced a search warrant. On Wednesday morning had been committed. On August 4, at meetings held by the Union and attended by officials with the strikers' Tory ignore the demands were met. THIS DECISION WAS WIDELY PUBLICISED BY THE UNION AND PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS CONTROLLED BY THE MINE OWNERS AS WELL AS IN THE UNION AND PUBLISHED IN The President of the Union, Mr. J. B. Marks, has been arrested. Another arrest is that of Mr. Bert Murphy, a prominent member of the Council for Asiatic Affairs. A committee of the Council, has been appointed by the Prime Minister to deal with the strike. Native Affairs Ministers, Minos, Mr. S. F. Waterson, Labour, Dr. Colin Steyn, Justice, Mr. H. G. Lawrence, Native Affairs Ministers, Major F. van der Bei.

THEIR JOB IS AN EASY ONE. LET THEM FORCE THE MINE-OWNERS TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE AFRICAN MINE-WORKERS' UNION AND EVERY DEMOCRAT IN SOUTH AFRICA MUST DEMAND. THIS IS WHAT EVERY TRADE UNIONIST AND EVERY UNION WHICH REPRESENTS THE WORKERS

African Mineworkers' Union Statement. Page Two

JOHANNESBURG. On Tuesday morning, the police, bearing search warrants, raided the office of the African Mine Workers' Union and confiscated nearly all the documents, records and other papers. Mr. J. B. Marks, president of both the African Mine Workers' Union and the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions, has been arrested on a charge under the Riotous Assemblies Act. Mr. [illegible], editor of "Inkululeko", who [illegible] a journalist [illegible]

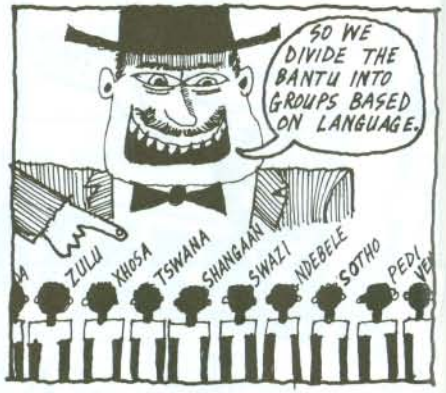
The strike was stopped by police killing miners.

The ruling minority became afraid of the growing power of black people in towns and cities.

In 1948 whites elected a new government, which they thought would keep the black majority under control.

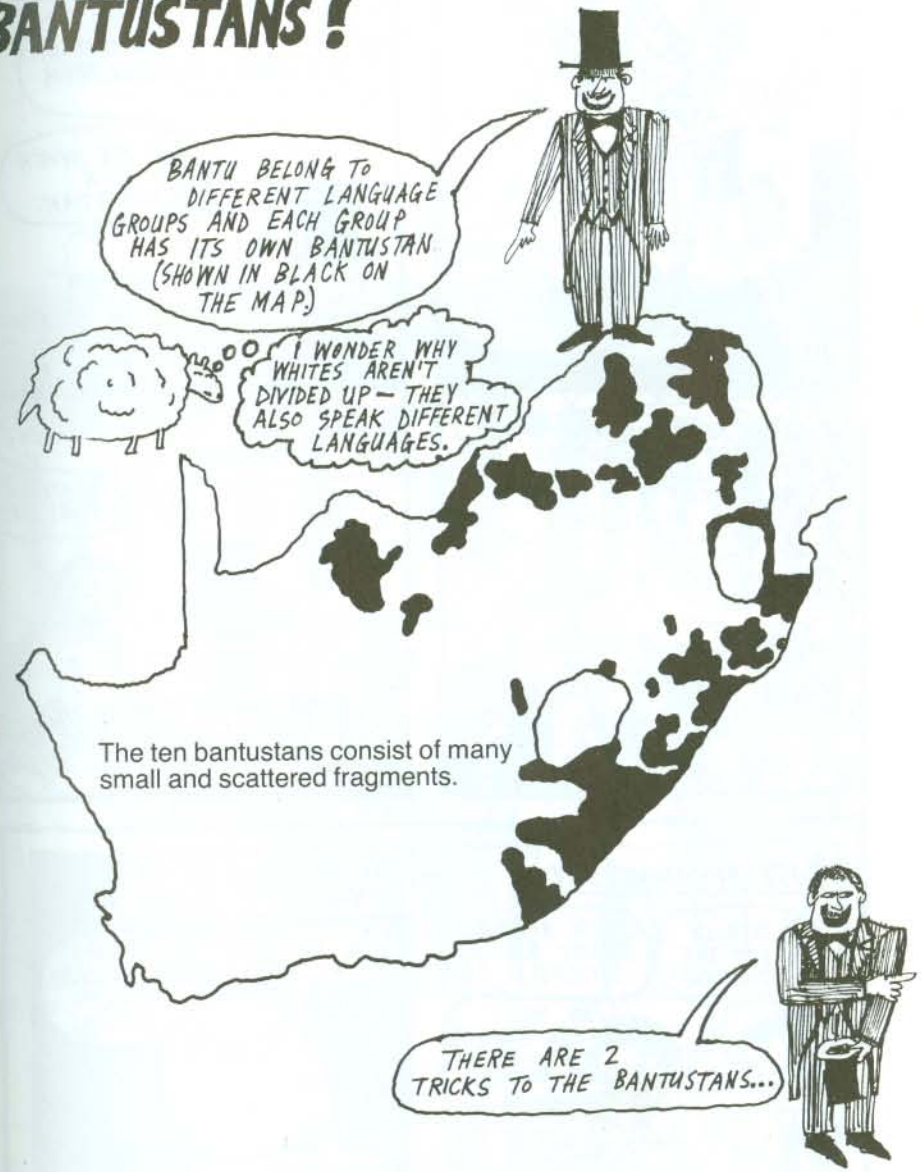
The Nationalists called their policy 'Apartheid'. Its aim was to break the power of the majority by extending segregation.

THE DIVIDE AND RULE TECHNIQUE.



WHAT ARE THE BANTUSTANS?

In 1951 the government began its bantustan program.



The ten bantustans consist of many small and scattered fragments.

THE STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION

1. MASS PEACEFUL PROTEST

The 1950s

In 1943 the African National Congress (ANC) issued its first comprehensive political program. . .

Six years later, in 1949, it adopted the Program of Action. This was the year after the Nationalist Party took power.

The Nationalist Party wanted to crush political resistance and to ensure a submissive workforce.

1. The Suppression of Communism Act of 1950.

2. 1953: Trade unions forced to segregate members. African membership of registered unions outlawed.

3. Pass laws extended to include women and 16-year-olds.

In the 1950s the ANC's Program of Action was implemented. Action involved broad co-operation between different groups. Large numbers took part in mass resistance.
In 1952 the ANC co-operated with the South African Indian Congress to carry out the Defiance Campaign against unjust laws.

The Clarion
PRICE 2d
CAMPAIGN OF DEFIANCE UNDER WAY
THOUSANDS READY TO BREAK UNJUST LAWS
Volunteer's Pledge
IN THIS ISSUE

There were other campaigns including the 1953 campaign against the policy of Bantu Education.

Soon several opposition groups came together under the leadership of the ANC.

THE CONGRESS ALLIANCE

In 1955 they all met at the Congress of the People, where 3,000 delegates adopted the Freedom Charter.

THE FREEDOM CHARTER

- THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN.
- ALL NATIONAL GROUPS SHALL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS.
- THE PEOPLE SHALL SHARE THE NATION'S WEALTH.
- THE LAND SHALL BE SHARED BY THOSE WHO WORK IT.
- ALL SHALL BE EQUAL BEFORE THE LAW.
- ALL SHALL ENJOY EQUAL HUMAN RIGHTS.
- THERE SHALL BE WORK AND SECURITY FOR ALL.
- THE DOORS OF LEARNING AND CULTURE SHALL BE OPENED.
- THERE SHALL BE HOUSES, SECURITY AND COMFORT.
- THERE SHALL BE PEACE & FRIENDSHIP.

The government reacted. . .

156 leaders and activists were tried for treason. The trial lasted four and a half years. All were acquitted. But the movement realised new methods were needed to combat increasing repression.

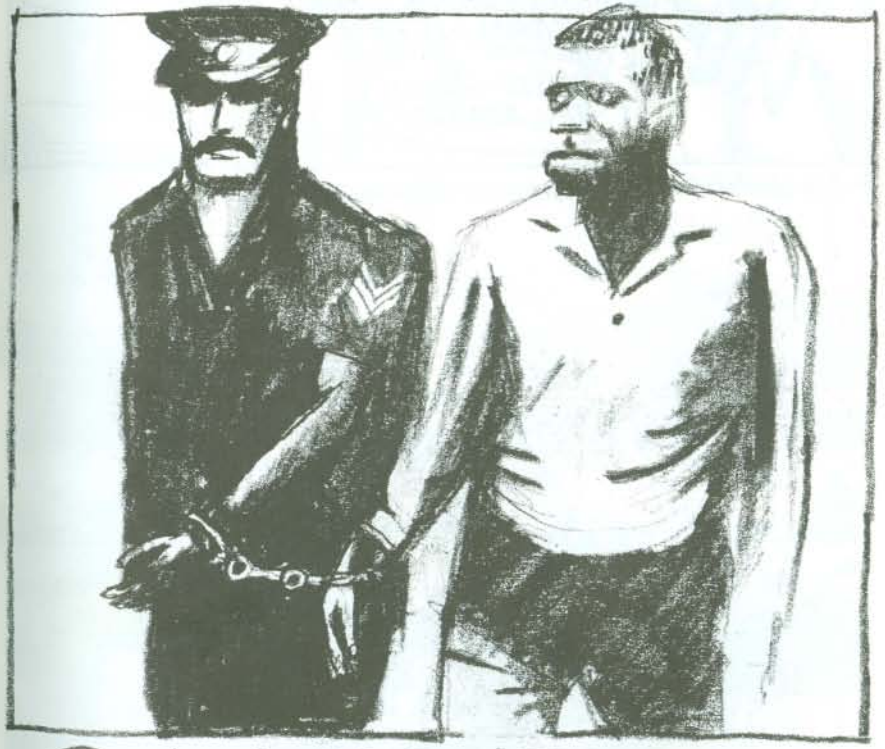
In the mid-1950s the government extended the pass laws.

20,000 women marched on the government's offices in Pretoria on 9 August 1956. They demanded to see the Prime Minister, but he refused.

The event is now annually celebrated as South Africa Women's Day.

Despite the nationwide protests the government enforced the extension of passes to women.

THE STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION



2. A DECADE OF REPRESSION

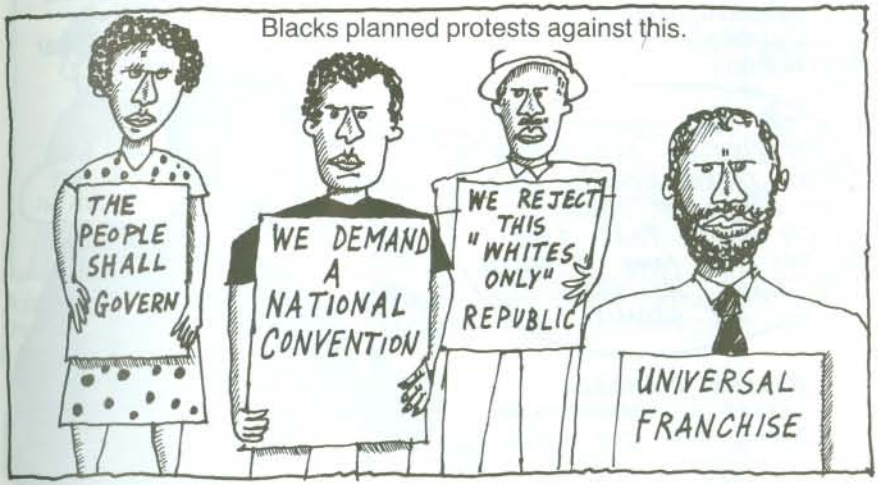
The 1960s

The campaign against the pass laws continued into the 1960s. On 21 March that year there was a peaceful demonstration at Sharpeville. It had been called by the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) an organisation formed the year before in a split from the ANC.

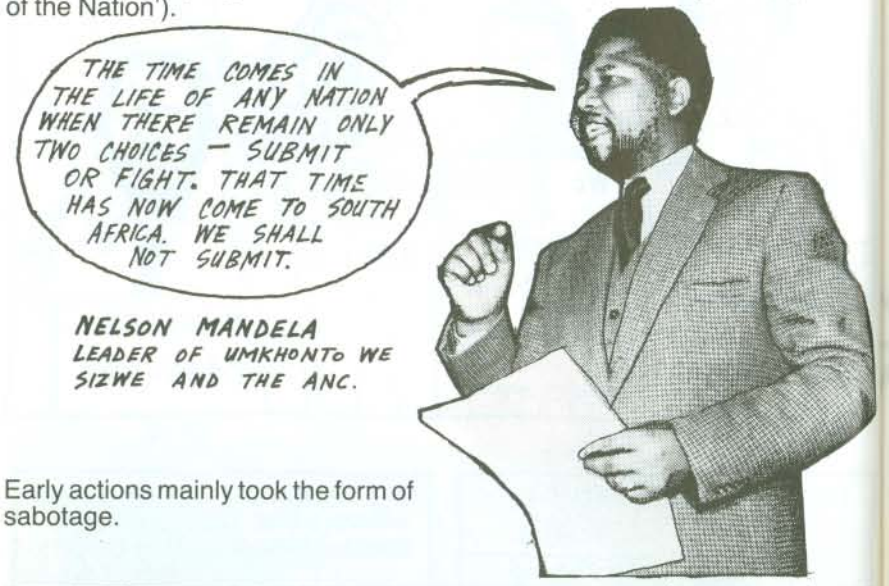
Police opened fire, killing 69 people and wounding many more.

The country was aflame with protests, demonstrations and strikes. The government declared a State of Emergency. Over 22,000 people were detained or arrested. The ANC and PAC were outlawed.

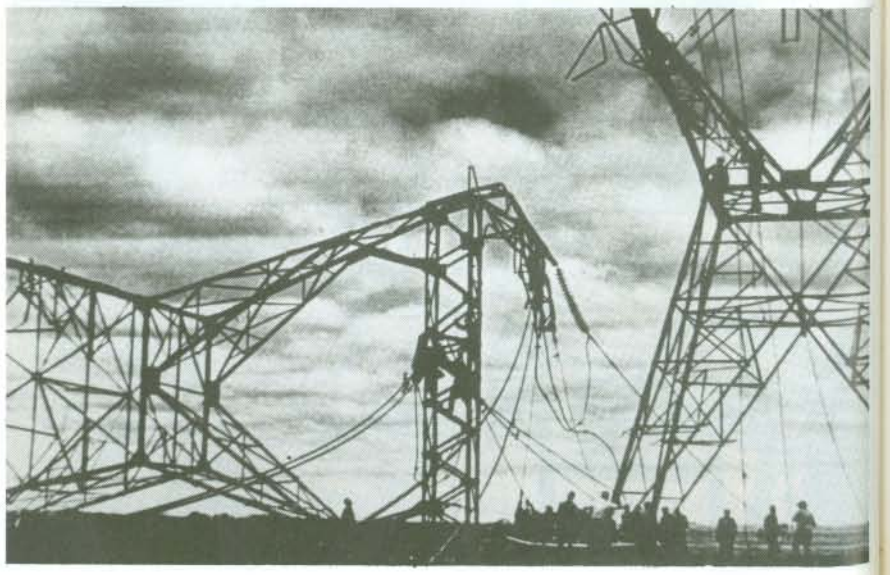
At this time South Africa was still a member of the British Commonwealth. The other members opposed apartheid and South Africa was forced to withdraw from the Commonwealth. In 1961 South Africa became a republic.



The banning of the ANC and PAC, the rejection of the call for a national convention and the imposition of the apartheid republic marked a turning point in the history of the resistance movement. It became obvious that the White Government would make no concessions to peaceful protest. The ANC realised that armed struggle was now unavoidable. In 1961 they formed a military organisation: Umkhonto we Sizwe (meaning: 'The Spear of the Nation').



Early actions mainly took the form of sabotage.



The Sharpeville massacre and the resistance that followed, frightened foreign investors and the government.

A period of intense repression followed. In 1963 the underground leaders of the ANC were arrested. Nelson Mandela was amongst those jailed for life.

The Star

MANDELA AND SISULU GUILTY ON ALL CHARGES

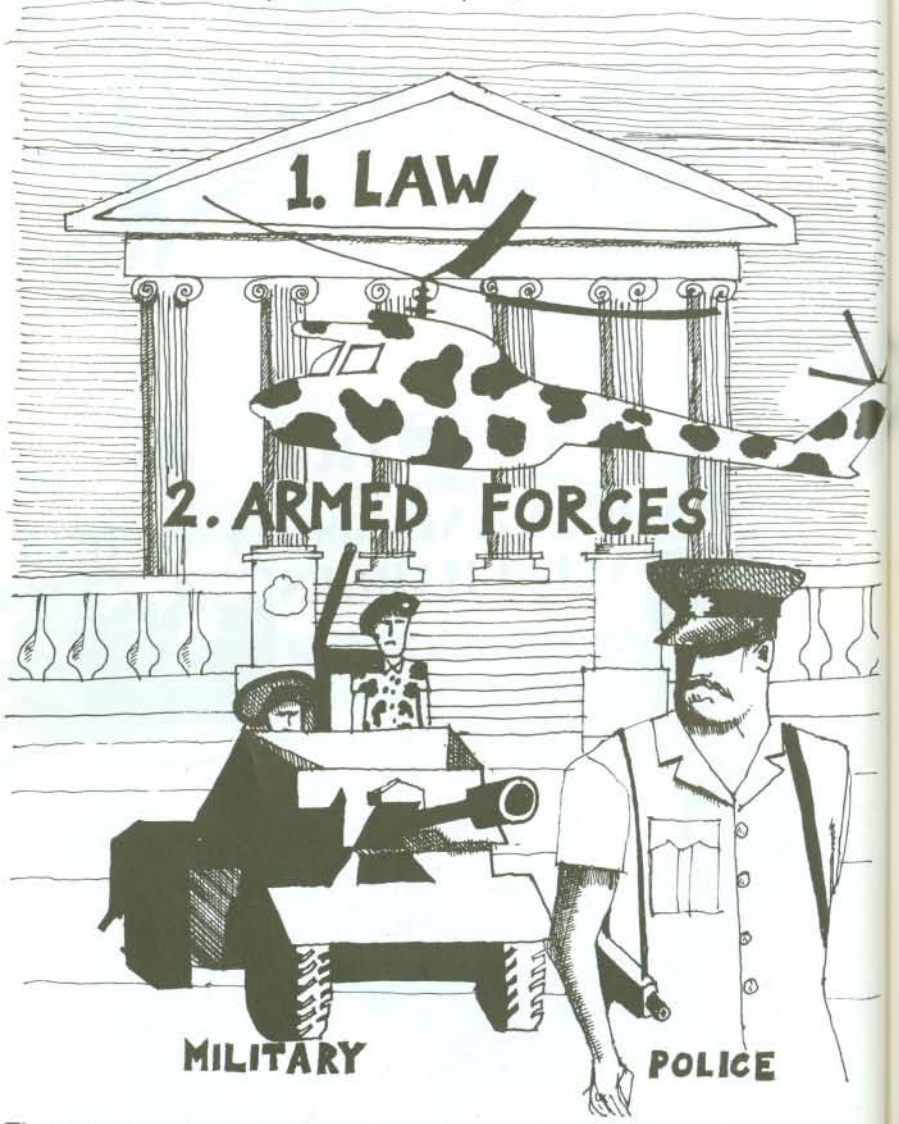
Only Bernstein freed

...on rearrested

The decade from 1963 to 1973 was a high period of apartheid rule. The liberation movement was forced underground and for Whites in general, for businessmen and foreign investors life was great.

Maintaining white privilege depended on censorship and bannings. But the government realised that even harsher methods of control were needed.

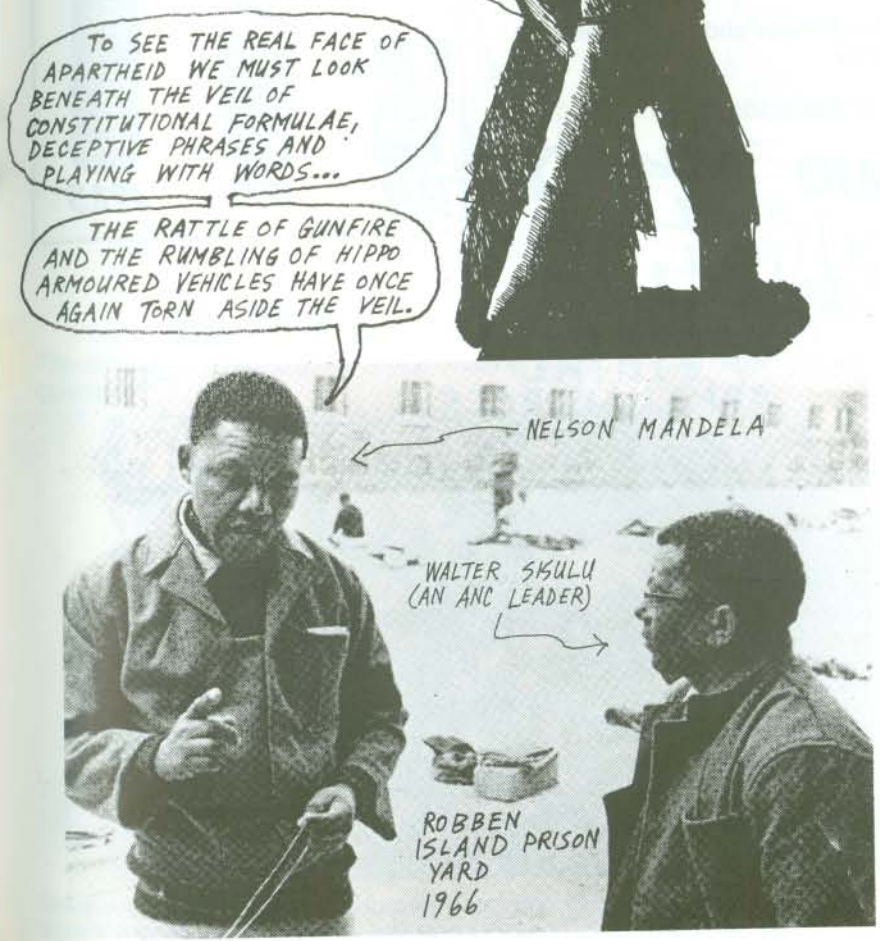
The system has always had two main parts:



The government transformed the existing system and made it into a more powerful tool for dealing with opposition.

LAWS

Over the years the government had made laws to restrict all kinds of opposition. Laws give a surface impression of justice. In fact many laws allow the government to bypass the courts. It can detain people without trial for as long as it wishes. It can ban people, organisations, publications, objects or meetings.

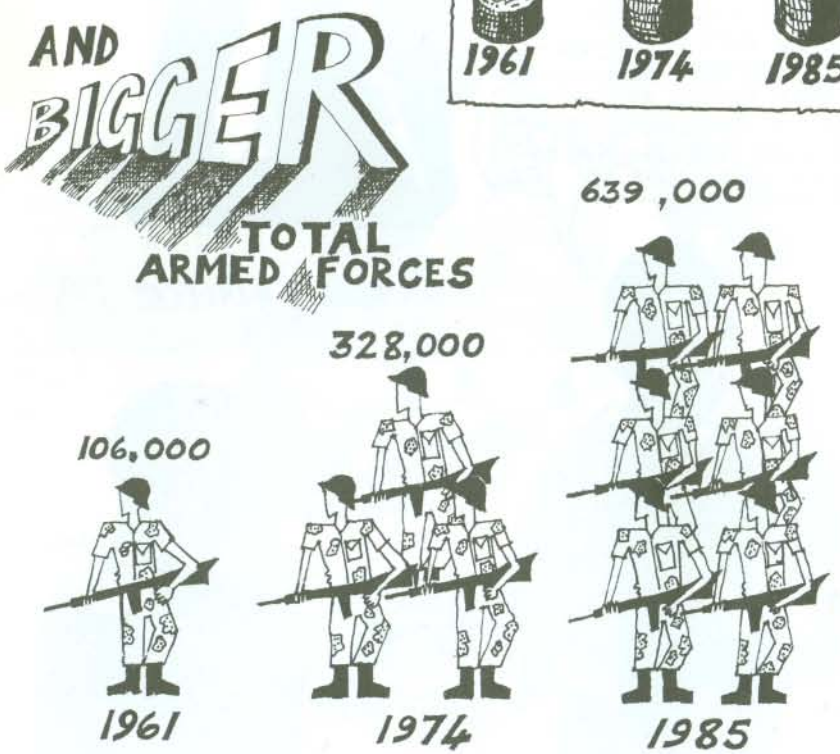


Ultimately apartheid rests on force. Since the 1960s the government has responded to the rising voice of opposition by increasing the amount of force available.

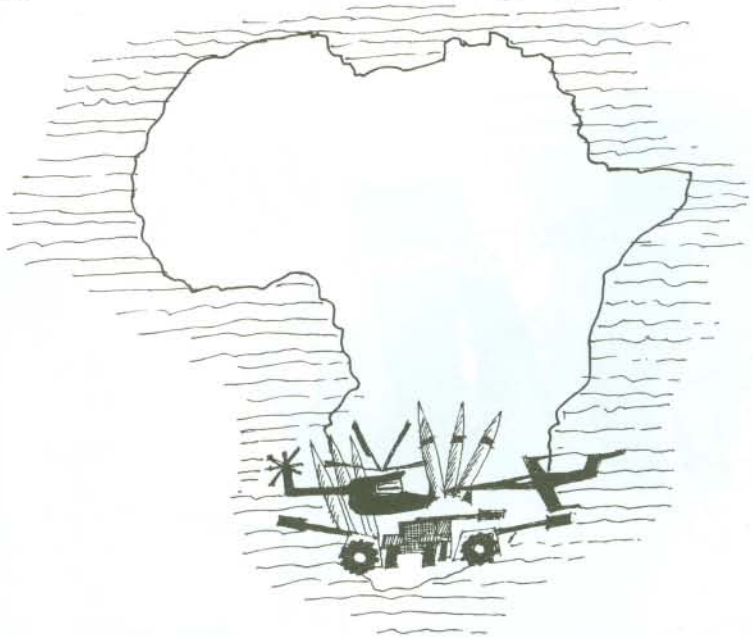
MILITARY

It expanded and transformed the army. . .

It was made bigger...



The regime began to build the biggest weapons industry in the southern hemisphere.



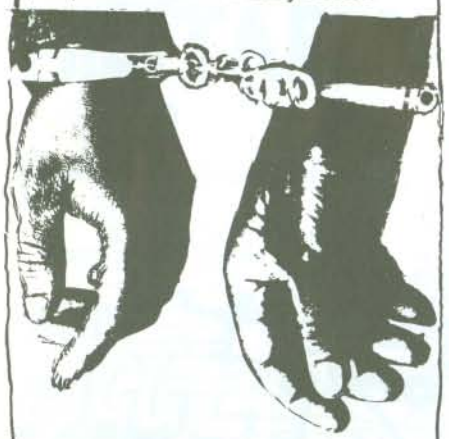
The army was used to attack neighbouring states, to try to force their co-operation.

Seven hundred Namibian refugees were massacred in a South African attack on a refugee camp at Kassinga in Angola in 1978.

THE POLICE

The police have three main functions:

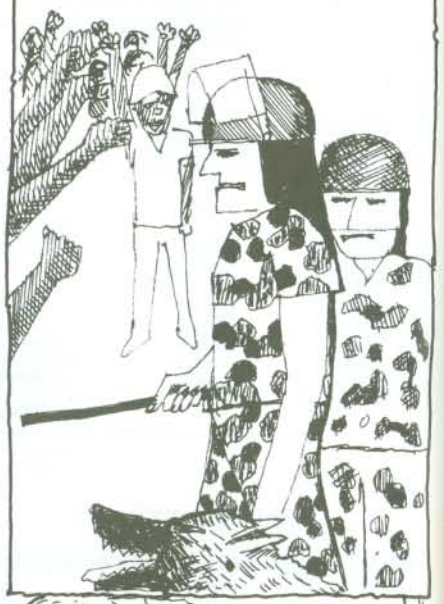
Enforcement of the laws that control people's lives on a daily basis.



Between 1916 and 1985 over 17 million people were arrested under pass laws.

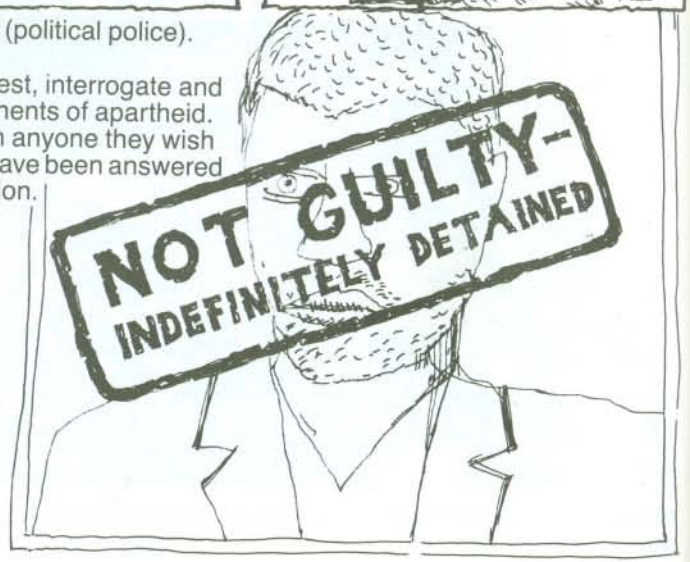
Suppression of protest.

The police have several para-military units. They are the first line of attack against uprisings.



Security Branch (political police).

They detain, arrest, interrogate and prosecute opponents of apartheid. They may detain anyone they wish until questions have been answered to their satisfaction.



A characteristic of apartheid is the use of violence and torture by its agents.

Since 1963 over 80 people have died in police custody in politically related circumstances. Torture is commonly used to extract 'confessions'. In addition, every year police kill several hundred people on the streets and in custody, 'in the course of their duties'. This excludes thousands more killed in demonstrations and uprisings.

THE STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION

3. NEW FORMS OF RESISTANCE

The 1970s

The decade following the mid-1960s was a time of intense repression. The gap between rich and poor grew. Black living standards fell. Those of Whites rose.

Hovel-town crisis for council

RDM 22 AUG 1969

By CHRIS DAY
Municipal Reporter

A GIANT shanty-town covering about 150 acres has mushroomed overnight near Soweto. Thousands of Africans are living there in abject squalor not seen in Johannesburg since the squatter villages of the 1950s.

Hundreds of families are living in cardboard and rugated-iron hovels. Africans for

The government made some headway in imposing unpopular apartheid political structures.